(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for converting these aircrafts as cargo carriers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines proposes to commence its own retail courier and freighter services to tap the huge domestic courier/cargo business. For this purpose, Indian Airlines proposes to converts 5 Boeing 737 aircraft, initially, into freighter aircraft.

Internet Facility at Airports

2213. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of airports in the country which will be provided with Internet facility;

(b) by when it will be introduced and what would be its advantages; and

(c) the details of airports in Karnataka which will get this facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Internet facility has already been provided at Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi (IGI), Guwahati, Hyderabad (Begumpet), Jaipur, Jammu, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Safdarjung, Srinagar, Udaipur, Varanasi and Chandigarh airports. Intranet facility has been approved and work is in progress at airports in Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bhopal, Calicut, Coimbatore, Dehradun, Goa, Gorakhpur, Gwalior, Indore, Kangra (Gaggal), Kanpur (Civil), Kullu (Bhuntar), Ludhiana, Madurai, Mangalore, Nagpur (Sonegaon), Pantnagar, Pathankot, Pune(Lohegaon), Shimla, Tiruchirapalli, Agartala, Aurangabad, Bhubaneshwar, Imphal, Thiruvananthapuram, Vadodra, Vishakhapatnam. Internet facility is also planned at airports in Agra, Bagdogra, Belgaum, Hubli, Jodhpur, Khajuraho, Patna, Rajkot, Ranchi, Salem, Tirupati, Tuticorin, Vijayawada, Agatti, Lengpui, Akola, Allahabad, Bhavnagar, Bhuj, Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Diu, Gaya, Jamnagar, Jabalpur, Jorhat, Kandla, Keshod(Junagarh), Kolhapur, North Lakhimpur, Pondicherry, Porbandar, Port Blair, Raipur, Rajamundri, Shillong(Umroi), Sholapur, Silchar, Surat, Tezpur.

(b) This facility would be available at these airports in the next 3-12 months. Internet facilitates connectivity between various AAI airports for flow of data, voice and video, which can be stored and updated from time to time for the benefit of the organisation and the security and control of its employees.

(c) In Karnataka, Bangalore airport has already been provided with internet facility. Work on intranet is already in progress at Mangalore airport. This facility has also been planned for Belgaum and Hubli Airports in the current financial year.

Encroachments around Mumbai Airport

2214. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mumbai airport is surrounded by various types of encroachments; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Encroachments have been caused by a complex set of interacting factors such as economic, social, administrative etc.

NOC applied by IA Pilots

2215. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines is currently facing a threat of poaching of its pilots by private carriers with the lure of a bigger pay packet;

(b) whether IA pilots are resorting to pressure tactics by seeking 'No Objection Certificate' from IA management to join a better and" rewarding airlines and if so, whether sixty-two pilots have sought the NOC so far; and

(c) whether IA is already paying pilots salaries ranging from Rs. 35.00 lakhs to Rs. 70.00 lakhs per annum and if so, whether IA is in a position to match the salary range of the private sector?